

Australian Women Lawyers

Third National Conference
6-8 August 2010 | Stamford Plaza Brisbane

Justice for all

Program Highlights:

- Access to justice
- Law and policy reform
- Legal professional reform
- Women's participation in the profession
- Findings from the ALRC Family Violence Inquiry

Inspirational, motivating and leading speakers include:

- **Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC**, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
- **The Hon Paul de Jersey AC**, Chief Justice of Queensland
- **The Hon Diana Bryant**, Chief Justice, Family Court of Australia and Patron, Australian Women Lawyers
- **The Hon Justice Margaret McMurdo AC**, President, Queensland Court of Appeal
- **Olivia Perkiss**, Barrister, Qld Bar and President, Australian Women Lawyers
- **The Hon Berna Collier**, Judge, Federal Court of Australia
- **The Hon Justice Jane Mathews AO**, Supreme Court of NSW and Patron, NSW Women Lawyers Association
- **Fiona McLeod SC**, Barrister, Victorian Bar
- **Bronwyn Carr**, Lead Lawyer, AMEX

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Invitation from the President



It is with great pleasure that I invite you to join us at our **Third Australian Women Lawyers National Conference** to be held in Brisbane 6-8 August 2010.

In line with AWL's broad objective of supporting justice and equality for women, the 2010 conference, *Justice for All* will examine both direct and indirect discrimination against women in the legal profession. AWL recognises the unique challenges within the profession for women, and the importance of their presence in creating a balanced representation.

The conference will address a broad range of practice areas including corporate & commercial, family and administrative law as well as issues relevant to practice management, recruitment and retention.

Speakers have been invited to address the issues facing each practice area and to discuss discrimination in the profession and with the administration of justice. AWL's aim is to make this conference highlight not only the issues facing women in general, but to make the broader community more responsive, as a whole, to women's needs. I look forward to welcoming you all in Brisbane in August.

Olivia Perkiss,
President,
Australian Women Lawyers



Organising Committee

Olivia Perkiss, Barrister, **Queensland Bar**,
President, Australian Women Lawyers and
Past-President, Women Lawyers Association of
Queensland

Kerry Clark, Barrister, **SA Bar**,
Vice-President, Australian Women Lawyers and
President, Women Lawyers Association of SA

Rebecca Lee, Barrister, **WA Bar** and
Secretary, Australia Women Lawyers

Lee-May Saw, Barrister, **NSW Bar**,
Board Member, Australian Women Lawyers and
Past President, Women Lawyers Association
of NSW

Christine Melis, Barrister, **Victorian Bar** and
Board Member, Australian Women Lawyers

Mary Anne Ryan, Barrister and Solicitor,
Tasmania, Board Member, Australian Women
Lawyers and Past President, Women Lawyers
Association of Tasmania

Jennifer McVeigh, Consultant, **Minter Ellison**

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Register online today: www.lexisnexis.com.au/AWL

Day 1 - Friday 6 August 2010

5.30pm **Conference registration**

6.00 **Official opening and welcome reception**

Soak up the ambience and mingle with colleagues in the delightful River Room, at the Stamford Plaza.

Enjoy light refreshments and hear from The Honourable Justice Paul de Jersey, Chief Justice of Queensland as he officially opens the conference.

Official opening



I am very pleased to welcome you to Queensland for the third biennial AWL conference. For the past 20 years, women have been graduating from university law schools in numbers equal to or greater than men and have been consistently among the top achievers. This is particularly encouraging. Gender

imbalance in the profession is subject to steady erosion, which must of course continue. The conference will identify new avenues, ideas, attitudes – to ensure that; and provide a good opportunity to rejoice in the substantial achievements to date.

The Hon Justice Paul de Jersey AC, Chief Justice of Queensland

The welcome reception is included in the registration fee but please indicate your intention to attend on the registration form.

Additional tickets can be purchased for those who are not attending the conference.

**Social
Program**



Day 2 - Saturday 7 August 2010

8.30am **Conference registration**

9.00 **Welcome from the Chairperson**

Olivia Perkiss, Barrister Queensland Bar and President, Australian Women Lawyers

9:15 **Opening Keynote Address: Justice for all**



The Hon Diana Bryant, Chief Justice, Family Court of Australia, and Patron, Australian Women Lawyers

9.45 **Key issues from the ALRC Family Violence Inquiry**

- Responding to the ALRC/NSWLRC terms of reference
- Reaching stakeholders
- The law reform challenge
- Key concerns from the Family Court Violence Inquiry
- Insights from recent Family Court decisions

Professor Rosalind Croucher, President, Australian Law Reform Commission

The Hon Justice Judy Ryan, Family Court of Australia and Chair, Family Court Violence Inquiry

Mary-Anne Ryan, Barrister and Solicitor, Tasmanian Bar

10.45 **Morning Tea**

11:15 **Corporate Insolvency: Restructuring the financial sector and understanding the long term effects of the GFC**

- Current legal framework and its capacity to cope with economic downturns
- Specific case studies arising from the GFC
- Regulatory responses and judicial outcomes
- Proposed reforms addressing long term effects of the GFC
- Legal issues exposed by the GFC
- Inadequate enforcement or inadequate regulations?
- The agenda for insolvency law reform
- Trends in financial products and services
- Debt trading
- Understanding the key reforms around credit law and the financial sector

The Hon Berna Collier, Judge, Federal Court of Australia

Dr David Goldman, Partner, Norton Rose Australia and Visiting Fellow, UNSW

Bronwyn Carr, Lead Lawyer, AMEX

Third National Conference

1.00 Networking lunch for speakers and delegates

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2.00 Gender discrimination and access to justice

- Where do the problems occur?
- Understanding gender discrimination issues for contemporary practice
- Access to justice – what does it mean in the federal family context: insights from the AIFS Evaluation of the family law reforms
- Legal and non-legal pathways in resolving children disputes: patterns in use and outcomes
- Family violence and the resolution of children's disputes: findings and issues
- Patterns in legal and self-representation in children's matters
- Gender issues in Australian law and its practice

Susan Booth, *Senior Member, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal*

Dr Rae Kaspiew, *Manager, Legislation and Courts Project, Australian Institute Family Studies*

The Hon Justice Jane Mathews AO, *Supreme Court of NSW, and Patron, Women Lawyers Association of NSW*

3.15 Book Launch: Women and the Law in Australia High tea with the Governor-General

Social Program



The first of its kind, *Women and the Law in Australia*, edited by Professor Patricia Eastal AM, provides practical advice on dealing with issues in the practice of law that are of specific importance to women. It is intended not just to highlight the problems that women experience with the legal

system as defendants, complainants, victims, witnesses and practitioners but also to identify pragmatic steps for solicitors, barristers and policy-makers.

The book will be launched by:

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, *Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia*

Guest speakers include:

Professor Patricia Eastal AM, PhD *Faculty of Law, University of Canberra, Editor, Women and the Law in Australia*

Daemoni Bishop, *Pacific Research Solutions Director, LexisNexis*

Following the book launch, enjoy meeting Her Excellency the Governor-General and talking to colleagues about this exciting new publication. Delight in a fine glass of Australian pink champagne accompanied by beautiful teas, coffee, exquisite savouries, pastries and petit fours.

The book launch will be held in the Stamford Ballroom reception area and all conference delegates are welcome.

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4.15 State of the Profession: Still Waiting for the Surge

- Women's Participation in the Profession
- Where we came from - a look at the efforts of pioneers
- Outlining the raw facts - the unchanging composition of the profession
- Understanding why it even matters, when I'm doing nicely
- A stunning disparity - pay inequity kicks in early
- Differing attitudes and expectations – super woman is not saving us
- Small steps and success stories

Fiona McLeod SC, *Barrister, Owen Dixon Chambers West*

4.45 DISCUSSION PANEL: State of the profession

- Comparing the nationwide court appearance survey with longitudinal gender statistics from the Queensland Court of Appeal
- Reporting on current numbers of women at the junior and senior bar and in the judiciary throughout Australia
- Observations about the present State of the Profession and comment on desirable future directions
- Examining salary figures from NSW shows that in their early professional years, female solicitors are being paid \$7k - \$8k less per annum than their male counterparts. We need to know why.
- Adding issues around career/life balance to the mix
- Understanding the barriers – how do we collect proper information from inside private law firms so that the problem - if any - can be identified and addressed?
- Analysing the state of the bar as illustrated by the recent Law Council of Australia/AWL Court Appearance Survey
- Outlining the length of appearances and quality of the work at the bar by gender comparison
- Qualifying the effect and existence of equitable briefing policies
- Addressing the cultural effect of the continuance of the bar as a male dominated industry

Facilitator: Olivia Perkiss, *President, Australian Women Lawyers*

The Hon Justice Margaret McMurdo AC, *President, Queensland Court of Appeal*

Noor Blumer, *Director, Blumers Lawyers*

Janean Richards, *National Manager, Legal Services Branch, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service*

5.45 Closing Remarks

7.30 Gala Dinner

The Gala Dinner will be held in the magnificent River Room and includes a selection of premium wines plus a tailored three-course menu. Relax to the sounds of the classical guitar and enjoy the breathtaking river and city lights. The Gala Dinner is an optional event so be sure to indicate your intention to attend on the registration form. Partners/guests are welcome.

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Legal Practice Centre Griffith Law School

Social Program

Day 3 - Sunday August 8th 2010

8.45am **Arrival tea and coffee**

9.15 **Opening Address: Integrating justice and equity within a progressive framework**

Hon Cameron Dick MP, Queensland Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations

9.45 **Law and policy reform and processes**

- Examining processes for reform agendas within the Courts
- Setting the agenda
- Working from the "Inside"
- Working from the "Outside"
- Importance of accurate and relevant research
- Importance of "stories" and narratives
- Understanding processes for consultation within and around the Profession

The Hon Justice Roslyn Atkinson, Supreme Court of Queensland

Zoe Rathus, Senior Lecturer and Co-Director, Clinical Program, Griffith Law School and Former Director, Women's Legal Service Queensland

Hon Cameron Dick MP, Queensland Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations

10.45 **Morning tea**

11.15 **Snapshot: Trailblazing Women Lawyers Project**

Prof. Kim Rubenstein, Director, Centre for International and Public Law, Australian National University

11.30 **Legal Professional Reform: Where to from here?**

- An update on the National Legal Professional Reform project
- Lawyers managing badly
- Discriminatory and exclusionary practices persisting within legal workplaces
- Mis/management practices regarding: discrimination, meaningful career paths, and flexible work practices
- Dealing with a 'client service' mantra which is assumed to demand long hours and high pressured working conditions
- Understanding the impact for women in practice
- Working conditions and choosing to leave the profession
- Maintaining a wide-ranging dialogue within the profession
- Teaching gender, accessing justice and transforming legal culture
- Exposing gender issues and bias through legal education
- The role of law schools in promoting social and legal professional reform for our future policy makers and the legal profession
- The importance of clinical training to enable deeper reflection on issues that prevent access to justice based
- Understanding the potential for alternative models of legal education in seeking justice and transforming the legal culture

John Briton, Queensland Legal Services Commissioner and Member Consultative Group, National Legal Profession Reform

Geraldine Neal, Workplace Consultant, Mediator and Visitor, School of Management, Queensland University of Technology

Dr Fiona Hum, Sessional Lecturer, Monash University

12.30 **Closing remarks**

1.00 **Light lunch**

2.00 **Close of conference**

ACCOMMODATION

Special rates have been arranged at the hotels listed below for delegates at this years AWL conference. Please contact the hotels directly on the numbers listed and quote the relevant codes listed below to receive the special rates. Please note that full payment on credit card may be required to secure accommodation bookings.

It is recommended that you book accommodation as early as possible, as quoted hotel rates are only available until sold out, after which higher rates may apply.

Stamford Plaza, Brisbane - \$265 per night

Cnr Edward & Margaret Streets, Brisbane

Phone: 07 3221 1999

Website: www.stamford.com.au/spb

Please quote "**LexisNexis Conference**" when booking

Quay West Suites, Brisbane – \$219 per night

132 Alice Street Brisbane

Phone: 07 3853 6000

Website: www.mirvachotels.com

Please quote "**COFE05**" when booking

The Oaks Felix Hotel – 1 Bedroom \$167, 2 Bedroom \$247

26 Felix Street, Brisbane

Phone: 1300 663619

Email: felix@theoaksgroup.com.au

Website: www.oakshotelsresorts.com

Please quote "**LexisNexis Conference**" when booking

Register online today: www.lexisnexis.com.au/AWL

Priority registration form Australian Womens Lawyers Third National Conference

4 easy ways
to register

Online: www.lexisnexis.com.au/AWL
Phone: 1800 772 772
Fax: (02) 9422 2338
Mail: Conference Co-ordinator, LexisNexis
Locked Bag 2222,
Chatswood Delivery Centre, Chatswood NSW 2067
or: DX 29590 Chatswood

Please complete sections A, B, C, D

TAX INVOICE

Conference code: PD1110 ABN: 70 001 002 357

A Delegate details

Mr/Ms/Dr: _____
First name Last name

Position: _____

Organisation: _____

Postal address: _____
Suburb Postcode State

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email (required**): _____

** to send conference confirmation

Dietry requirements: _____

Additional guest name/s

Mr/Ms/Dr: _____
First name Last name

Email (required**): _____

** to send conference confirmation

Mr/Ms/Dr: _____
First name Last name

Email (required**): _____

** to send conference confirmation

B CONFERENCE RESOURCES

I am unable to attend but would like to purchase a set of the Australian Womens Lawyers Third National Conference papers for \$300 + GST = \$330

Please subscribe me to Lawyers Weekly

- 1 year subscription: \$65 (inc GST) or
- 2 years subscription: \$104 (inc GST) (more than 70% discount from RRP of \$235.40 per annum).
- I wish to purchase the **Women and the Law in Australia** book
\$126.36 + GST = \$139

Where did you hear about this event? _____

Please add me to the LexisNexis Monthly Professional Development email list

Accommodation bookings

Accommodation discounts and booking information are detailed within the program.

Child minding

Please contact this well-respected local agency directly for detailed information on daytime or evening childminding.

Dial-An-Angel

Contact: Beth Riley
Ph: 07 3878 1077 • Fax: 07 3878 2730 • E: brisbane@dialanangel.com
Web: www.dialanangel.com

PROGRAM CHANGES

Details regarding this conference were confirmed and correct at the time of printing. LexisNexis reserves the right to cancel or amend the conference details at any time if required.

CANCELLATION

Your registration will be confirmed in writing when full payment has been received. LexisNexis' cancellation policy applies as follows. If cancellation is notified in writing:

- One calendar month or more prior to the first day of event: LexisNexis will refund your registration fee less \$165.00 administration cost.
- Between one calendar month plus one day and 14 days prior to the first day of event: LexisNexis will refund 50% of the fee paid by you and provide you with a copy of event papers.
- 13 days or less prior to the first day of the event: LexisNexis will not refund any part of your fee. However, you may nominate a replacement delegate to attend in your place.

C Event Pricing (please tick your selection)

EXAMPLE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 Day Conference only - Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$400 + GST = \$440	\$440
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Standard pricing (per person, available anytime)

Please Select	Options	Qty	Price	Subtotal
	Standard Full Conference + Gala Dinner and Welcome Reception		\$880 + GST = \$968	
	Standard Full Conference and Welcome Reception only		\$750 + GST = \$825	
	1 Day Conference only - Saturday		\$400 + GST = \$440	
	1 Day Conference only - Sunday		\$300 + GST = \$330	

New Lawyer pricing* (must be a law student, a trainee solicitor or in the first 5 years of admission)

	New Lawyer - Full Conference + Gala Dinner + Welcome Reception		\$730 + GST = \$803	
	New Lawyer - Full Conference + Welcome Reception only		\$600 + GST = \$660	

Social program only

	Gala Dinner only		\$130 + GST = \$143	
	Gala Dinner - Additional guests		\$130 + GST = \$143	
	Welcome Reception - Additional guests		\$39.09 + GST = \$43	

* Early Bird, team discounts and any other discount cannot be taken concurrently

TOTAL

D Payment details

Payment is due upon registration. This document will be a Tax Invoice/Receipt for GST upon completion of payment.

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Name of approving manager: _____

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Please tick here if you do not want sponsors to receive your information

Tick here if you DO NOT wish to receive information about upcoming events

Event date
& venue

6 - 8 August 2010
Stamford Plaza, Brisbane
Cnr Margaret & Edward Street, Brisbane